

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE HYDROGEN ECONOMY

Purpose of Initiative

The International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE) provides a mechanism to organize and coordinate multinational research, development and deployment programs that advance the transition to a global hydrogen economy. The IPHE leverages limited resources; reviews the progress of collaborative projects; identifies promising directions for research, development, demonstration, and commercial use; provides technical assessments for policy decisions; prioritizes, identifies gaps, and develops common recommendations for international codes, standards and safety protocols; and maintains communications with the private sector and other stakeholders to foster public-private collaboration that addresses the technological, financial and institutional barriers to a cost-competitive, standardized, widely accessible, safe and environmentally benign hydrogen economy.

Official Partners

Governments: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russia, United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Commission.

Other Participants

International Organizations: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperative, International Energy Agency, USAID, Arctic Council, and the Association of South East Asian Nations.

Civil Society: Members of the hydrogen economy stakeholder community are involved with the IPHE and are encouraged to participate and interact with the IPHE.

Partnership Goals

The IPHE will be successful when the following factors characterize the world's transportation sector:

- Hydrogen-powered vehicles are competitive with conventional vehicles.
- The price and availability of hydrogen are competitive with conventional fuels.
- Hydrogen fuel is conveniently available to hydrogen vehicle drivers, based on improved fueling and storage infrastructure.
- Hydrogen energy storage technologies will allow personal transportation systems to operate at the same levels of safety, performance and range as today's gasoline powered vehicles.
- An internationally consistent system of safety codes and standards related to hydrogen utilization is developed and adopted.

Progress Towards Goals

The inaugural IPHE Ministerial meeting was held November 19-21, 2003 in Washington DC, USA. A Terms of Reference was signed by the 16 IPHE partners and the initial meetings of the two IPHE Committees (Steering Committee and Implementation-Liaison Committee) were held. In the months since the Ministerial meeting, the IPHE Steering Committee has established an active IPHE Secretariat and met in China where it initiated the “Beijing Action Plan” to address stakeholder involvement, policy coordination, technology collaboration, and market development issues. The IPHE Implementation-Liaison Committee (ILC) recently met in Iceland and developed the “Reykjavik Action Plan” which focuses on identifying the current hydrogen technology research, development and demonstration activities of the IPHE partners and examining approaches for focusing these activities with collaborative efforts. Moreover, the ILC has assisted Brazil, China, India, and the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperative with hydrogen roadmapping activities and developed a series of international research and development workshops, including a hydrogen storage workshop in Italy in 2005.

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